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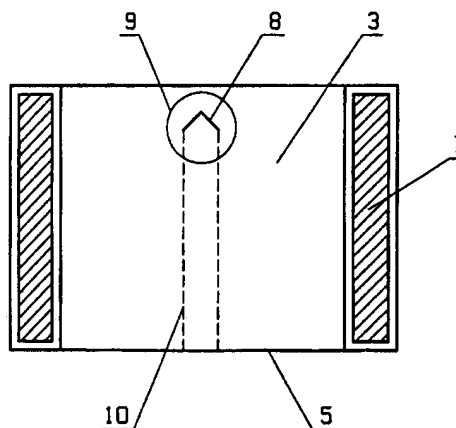
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(54) **Package for food product.**

(57) The invention relates to a package for food product useful for boil-in-bag or microwave comprising a sealed flexible pouch with a thermoformed bottom web and a top web (3) of a monooriented material and on this web a precut (8) covered by an adhesive membrane (9), which operates as a starting pull tab for the opening.

Fig. 2



EP 0 478 812 A1

The invention relates to a package for food products useful for boil-in-bag or microwave.

Packages for boil-in-bag are well-known and are the most used in the frozen area. These packages are cheap and comprise a sealed pouch, which have then to be opened with scissors when the food is heated. The obligation of using scissors is not very convenient. US Patent 3 373 926 concerns also a pouch containing for example potato chips and comprising a sealing strip for joining the edge portions of the tube formed for receiving the food product and a sealing for separating successive pouches. The great drawback of this system is the danger of having leakages at the position of the sealings, which renders this type of solution not absolutely accurate.

We have devised a package for heating a food product, which is easy to handle, i.e. to open and empty without any danger of burning the fingers and which is useful also in a microwave oven.

Accordingly the invention provides a packaging comprising a sealed flexible pouch with a thermoformed bottom web and a top web of a mono-oriented material and on this a precut covered by an adhesive membrane, which operates as a starting pull tab for the opening.

Due to the monoorientation of the material the pull tab starts a tear-strip without any weakening line in the material used. The package according to the invention can be used for frozen products as well as for chilled products.

If the package is used in a microwave, the adhesive membrane lift, due to the increasing of pressure inside the pack and therefore ventilate, it avoiding then any risk of exploding.

If the package is used in boiling water, the adhesive membrane stays closed due to different temperature ranges involved.

According to another feature of the invention, the flexible pouch comprises at opposite ends handles stiffened with two strips of material. These strips are of high density Polyethylene. After heating and opening the package, the help of the handles gives the opportunity to empty the pouch very easily by inverting it and the food product leaves the pouch.

The adhesive membrane covering the precut is a sticker with a prehensile end. This member gives a package with an accurate watertightness. The glue used for sticking the adhesive membrane is of any type known in the art, permitting good adhesion and afterward release of this adhesive membrane.

The precut in the top web is present transversely to the orientation of the film of said layer. The precut is near to one edge of the flexible pouch and approximately in the middle of this edge. The aim is to obtain an opening of the pouch

as large as possible to permit a good emptying of the food product contained therein.

The material of the top web is any oriented plastic used for the food contact and preferably a monooriented Polyester or Polyamide laminated to Polyethylene. The bottom web is made of Polyamide/Polyethylene or any other formable material sealable on the top web.

The present invention will now be further illustrated by way of example only with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 illustrates a side view of the package according to the invention, and

Fig. 2 is a top view of the same package.

The package (1) comprises a bottom web (2) and a top web (3) containing food product (4). A sealing (5) closes the package. At the two opposite ends of the package, handles (6) are present for allowing a good handling of the package.

The handles comprise further stiffened strips (7). On the top web (3) a precut (8) is covered by a sticker (9). The package is allowed to be reheated. After reheating, the sticker (9) is pulled, taking along, due to the precut (8), a strip (10) of material, which gives a clear opening of the top web of the package. After the opening, the pack is inverted and folded for discharging the food product (4) contained therein.

The opening along strip (10) is possible by the monoorientation of the material of the top web (3).

Claims

1. Package for food product useful for boil-in-bag or microwave comprising a sealed flexible pouch with a thermoformed bottom web and a top web of a monooriented material and on this web a precut covered by an adhesive membrane, which operates as a starting pull tab for the opening.
2. Package according to claim 1, characterized in that the flexible pouch comprises at opposite ends handles stiffened with two strips of material.
3. Package according to claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the adhesive membrane is a sticker with a prehensile end.
4. Package according to claim 1, characterized in that the precut in the top web is present transversely to the orientation of the film of said layer.
5. Package according to claim 4, characterized in that the precut is near to one edge of the flexible pouch and approximately in the middle

of this edge.

6. Package according to claim 5, characterized in that the material of the top web is made of a monooriented plastic film.

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7. Package according to claim 1, characterized in that the flexible pouch has a bottom web, which is of formable plastic laminate.

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8. Package according to claim 2, characterized in that the stiffened material is Polyethylene high density.

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Fig. 1

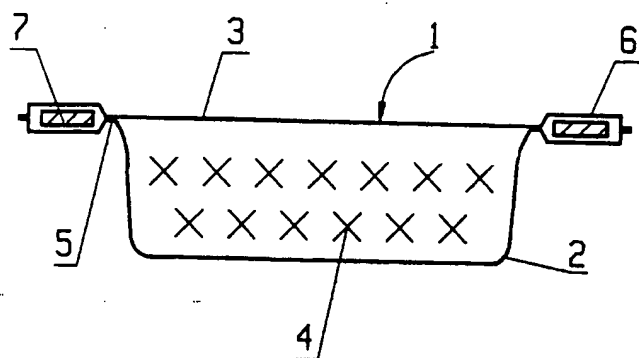
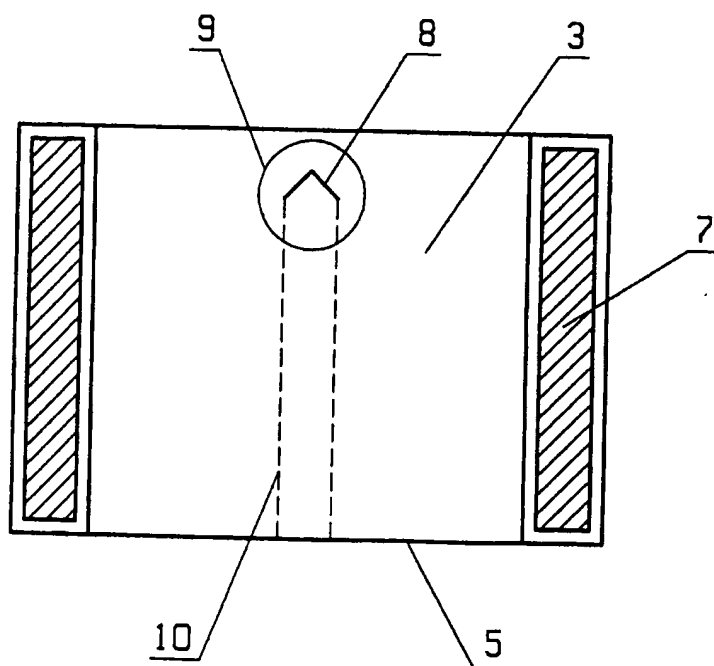


Fig. 2





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 90 11 8803

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT					
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)		
X,Y	US-A-3 175 752 (STABENOW) * column 1, line 30 - line 41 * * column 2, line 12 - line 17 * * column 2, line 47 - line 57 * * column 3, line 8 - line 29; figures * - - -	1,3-4,6,5, 7	B 65 D 75/62 B 65 D 75/56		
Y	EP-A-0 060 411 (TETRA PAK DEVELOPPEMENT) * figures 1-2 * - - -	5			
Y,A	EP-A-0 340 037 (E.I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS) * page 2, line 48 - line 55; figure 9; example 11 * - - -	7,1			
A	US-A-3 302 856 (THOMPSON) * column 2, line 27 - line 59; figure 3 * - - -	1,4,6			
A	FR-A-1 242 231 (MELIDES) * page 1, right column, paragraph 7; figure 4 * - - -	2			
A	DE-A-2 553 770 (BECK & CO PACKAUTOMATEN) * page 4, paragraph 1; figures * - - - - -	2			
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)		
			B 65 D		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims					
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of search 28 May 91	Examiner BRIDAULT A.A.Y.		
<table><tr><td>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document T: theory or principle underlying the invention</td><td>E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons &: member of the same patent family, corresponding document</td></tr></table>				CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document T: theory or principle underlying the invention	E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons &: member of the same patent family, corresponding document
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